Property of
Vigo County Historical Society

BAND - RINGGOLD

Copied from Ref.

RINGGOLD BAND

The Ringgold Band.
of
Terre Haute, Indiana.

By Aug. Stukenberg
Read before the Vigo County Historical Society.
1927.

-:-:-:-:-

George A. Sickford formerly a resident of Terre Haute, Indiana but now a resident of the City of Indianapolis, Ind. visited the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, Pa. during the summer of 1876. Being a musician, was very much interested in the band music while attending the exposition. He conceived the idea to organize a band in his home town, Terre Haute, Ind. and name the band, "Ringgold Band". On his return home, he called on Jacob Breinig, who had been a band-master of a regimental band during the Civil War, and persuaded Mr. Breinig to join him in organizing a band and orchestra. The band was so organized and named Ringgold Band and Orchestra.

The first engagement of the orchestra, was given December 13th. 1876, at Naylor's Opera House, located at the North-east corner of Fourth and Main Streets, and Ren Early who latter on joined the band as Drum Major in the fall of 1880, was the scenery man at the opera house on that occasion.

The members of the band were as follows: George A. Sickford, Jacob Breinig, William Sickford, Henry L. Breinig, A. W. Wernecke, Jerome Hill, George Weidele, Frank Carpenter, John Allison, H. W. Harrison, Frank Breinig, Peter Breinig, James F. Border, Herman Henshing, William Hartman, W. Tuttle and William Huff.

When some of the members left the band, others would join, so it was kept up in membership. The band was incorporated during the year of 1879, as, "Light Guard Ringgold Band".

George A. Sickford remained with the band until the year of 1886, at which time he moved from the city. After George A. Sickford left the city, Jacob Breinig became the sole manager of the band, and continued so until his death. After his death, his son Peter J. Breinig assumed charge of the band and in course of a few years, the band was discontinued.

Jacob Breinig was born in Germany in 1832, and came to the United States when about twenty years of age. He lived for a short while in New Orleans, La. and then moved to Evansville, Ind. from where he moved to Vincennes, Ind. Then to Pittsburg, Pa. for a few years, then returned to Vincennes, Ind. at which place he lived until he moved to Terre Haute, Ind. where he lived until his decease. Professor Breinig as he was generally called, belonged to the regimental bands of the 24th. and 91st. Indiana Volunteers during the Civil War. After he assisted in organizing the Ringgold Band, he was always ever ready to make improvements in the band.

Many years ago Mr. Breinig was a leader in the state band tournaments held throughout Indiana and Eastern Illinois, where there were good bands in existance. At a tournament held in Evansville, Ind. the Ringgold band was defeated by the George Warren's Crescent City Band of Evansville, Ind. and after the contest, Prof. Warren went to Prof. Breinig and told him that the Terre Haute musicians were the best.

Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Property of
Vigo County Historical Society

The two friends made a compact, that the survivor of the two, he and his band should play at the funeral of the one that died first, but Prof. Warren could not get his old band together for the occasion for Prof. Breinig..

Prof. Breinig composed quite a number of marchs and melodies, among those, was a march to the melody of "Heart Bowed Down", from Bohemian Girl, which he requested to be played at his funeral, which was done by Prof. Walters of the Goodman Band of Decatur, Ill. and Prof. Kilburn and other members of the Danville, Ill. band and also the Ringgold band, all took part in delivering the melodies Prof. Breinig composed and lover so well in life..

Prof. Breinig also arranged the music for our State song, "On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away", which was sang for the first time in public in Terre Haute, Ind. by Arthur Goldsmith at the first minstral show given by the Elks of Terre Haute, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Breinig had the pleasure of celebrating their golden wedding at their home at No. 36 South 14th. street, Terre Haute, Ind. The Ringgold Band Orchestra played throughout the celebration..

For many years when the cities of Owensborro and Henderson, Ky. had any celebrations of any kind, those in charge of the celebrations would always see to it to have the Ringgold Band to furnish the music for the occasions.